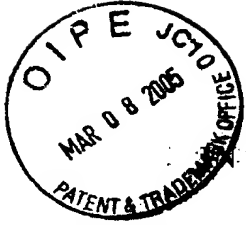


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**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: B.E. SORENSEN

Confirmation No.: 4089

Application No: 09/743,589

Group Art Unit: 1722

Filing Date: January 24, 2003

Examiner: D.H. Heckenberg Jr.

For: NITS SEPARATOR

Attorney Docket No.: 81421-4043

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 13, 2004, Applicants respectfully request the entry of the following amendments and comments into this file of this application.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION** begin on page 2.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS** begin on page 3.

**REMARKS** begin on page 6.

A substitute drawing is submitted herewith for the Examiner's approval.

Copies of a previously filed substitute specification are enclosed.

No fees are believed to be due for this submission. Should any fees be required, however, please charge such fees to Winston & Strawn LLP Deposit Account No. 50-1814.